

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

New claims 8-22 have been introduced and claims 1-7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by virtue of these amendments. Support for such amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the original claims of the application. For example, see page 7, lines 18-23 and page 14, lines 19-24.

Claims 8-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Office Action alleges that claims 8, 13, and 18 lack positive process sets that relate to the goal set forth in the preamble of each claim.

The rejections are traversed.

Claims 8, 13, and 18, as amended, comply with all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, including the requirements of §112, second paragraph.

Withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, rejections is thus requested.

Claims 8-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102 (b) as being allegedly anticipated by Ando and Mitani (*Neuroscience Letters*, 1998:81-84).

The rejection is traversed.

The *Neuroscience Letters* cited by the Office Action was published on March 13, 1998. A copy of the cover of the journal and the first page of the reference are enclosed for Examiner's convenience.

The present invention is a national stage application under §371 of PCT/JP99/01277 filed March 12, 1999 which claimed priority from Japanese patent application 10/249392 filed September 3, 1998.

Thus, the *Neuroscience Letter* document is not available under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), in part because the cited document published less than one year prior to the earliest priority date of the instant application.

Applicant's additionally note that the *Neuroscience Letter* document would not be available under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), in part because the authors of the *Neuroscience Letter* document are identical to the applicants of the instant application. Thus the *Neuroscience Letter* document is not a publication by another.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the noted claims are thus requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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